



March 9, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
Senate Commerce Committee
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
2143 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairs Cantwell, Murray, Graves and Granger, Ranking Members Cruz, Collins, Larsen, and DeLauro:

We are writing to express our support for ensuring America has a safe, reliable and modernized air traffic control (ATC) system. While we commend the Administration for a budget recommending increased funding for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in FY2024, we believe more can and needs to be done to better balance not only the maintenance and sustainability of the ATC system but also the modernization of that system. We have growing concerns about the urgent need for additional human and technological

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resources to ensure a healthy and scalable National Airspace System (NAS). The U.S. aviation system remains the safest mode of transportation in the world. However, we must continue to develop our safety culture and invest in both human and technological infrastructure to maintain and improve that safety record.

The aviation industry – from commercial aviation to general aviation, manufacturing, Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and many other emerging technologies– accounts for more than five percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). Robust investment in our aviation system is critical to continued safety and our global competitiveness and the private sector is investing billions in both human and capital expenditures to keep pace. However, missed certification deadlines, controller staffing shortages, and slow modernization demonstrate that the FAA is not keeping up with the growing needs and complexity of our aviation system and the demands being put on it to the detriment of consumers. These technology, personnel, and regulatory challenges need to be addressed if the U.S. is to maintain its global leadership in aviation safety and innovation.

We recognize and acknowledge the important discussions about the broader budgetary pressures facing our nation. However, the aviation system is unique given the significant role it plays in our nation's economy through both the movement of people of goods throughout the country and the world. Moreover, the travelling public and users of the system fund it by paying taxes into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund (AATF). Supporting the system through robust appropriations primarily derived from the AATF will ensure the system has the resources necessary to grow safely and sustainably. In addition, with the AATF expected to have surpluses in the next few years, it is critical to ensure those funds be spent to address critical system needs.

Thank you for your attention to these growing concerns and your recognition of the importance of that system to safety and our continued economic growth and global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Air Line Pilots Association
Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Cargo Airline Association
Experimental Aircraft Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
Helicopter Association International
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transport Association
National Business Aviation Association
Regional Airline Association
U.S. Travel Association